

## REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

October 22, 2007

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the October 9, 2007 minutes of the regular meeting with corrections and the special meeting as presented.

Motion passed with Mr. Haddad abstaining.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in honor of and respect for our troops around the world.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, distributed a list of concerns she has with the Landlord Registration Ordinance and some suggestions to address these concerns (attached).

V. PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

## 1. Preliminary Designs to Stone Mill Road/Laurel Lane Bridge

Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works, commented that these two federal bridge projects are still in the preliminary design stage and introduced Lorin Pippin from GM2 Associates who described the projects.

John Berg, 52 Laurel Lane, questioned whether or not the plans for the Laurel Lane Bridge include a parking area for fishermen. They do.

Mr. Hultgren explained that the Stonemill Project is very similar to a previously designed bridge for this area but now instead of receiving 30% reimbursement from the state the Town will be receiving an 80% reimbursement from the federal government. Stonemill Road has a scenic road designation so even though the federal requirements are that the bridge must be 18' wide the designation will help to protect the size and unpaved condition of the current road. Mr. Pippin described the proposed pilings and the critter passages.

Holly Rawson, 667 Chaffeeville Road, questioned the removal of trees for the project. The plan is to save all large trees. Any other trees marked for removal will be identified and citizens will have a chance to comment. Ms. Rawson asked the record show she objects to the length of the guide rails and would prefer the paving on the west side of the bridge be

much shorter.

Robert Bohn, 77 Stonemill Road, questioned the size of the hydraulic opening commenting it may be excessive.

Mike Morrissey, representing the Department of Transportation Rights of Way Division, explained the process of acquiring property and easements for the projects.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

### 2. Community/Campus Relations

Matt Hart, Town Manager, distributed information from Jim Hintz, Director of Off-Campus Student Services, which described what other college communities are doing to preserve the single-family residential character of campus neighborhoods. (attached) He also reported on a follow up meeting with Aspen Management at which the current situation and possible additional strategies were discussed.

### 3. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The next meeting will take place in December. The Town Manager noted an environmental representative has been recently appointed and the Committee is now looking for a user representative.

### 4. Gurleyville Bridge Railing Upgrade

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded the following resolution:

Whereas, the Town has published a display ad in the Willimantic Chronicle and mailed a letter to abutting property owners announcing a public informational meeting on the proposed STP Rural transportation project known as the Gurleyville Road bridge railings upgrade project #77-H054, and

Whereas, a public informational meeting was held on September 24, 2007 at 7:30 PM in the Mansfield Town Hall at which meeting residents had an opportunity to voice their concerns, and

Whereas, the Windham Region Council of Governments has selected this project as a regional priority and has agreed to utilize federal funds for construction activities, and

Whereas, the project is located on a municipally owned road, the preliminary engineering phase will be performed by the Town of Mansfield or its consultant, utilizing Town funds, and

Whereas, the Mansfield Town Council has considered the concerns of the residents from the public informational meeting and finds that the proposed Gurleyville Road Bridge railing upgrade project is in the best interests of the Town, and will promote the health, safety and general welfare of its residents and provide for convenience and safety of the motoring public.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Mansfield, based on the above information, and by virtue of this resolution, hereby supports the proposed project and

authorizes its proceeding through the preliminary design stage.

Be it further resolved that since public comment received for this project asked specifically that the approach railings be limited in their extent, that in so far as possible (given applicable safety standards for historic and scenic areas) the design shall minimize the extent of the approach railings, and Council and interested members of the public shall be afforded the opportunity to review the preliminary design prior to its authorizing the final design and construction stages of the project.

Motion passed by all.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### 5. Modification to Town Council Meeting Schedule

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded, effective October 22, 2007, to cancel the Town Council meeting scheduled for November 12, 2007, the legal holiday in observance of Veteran's Day, and to schedule a Town Council meeting for Tuesday, November 13, 2007.

Motion passed unanimously.

### 6. Grant Application to Recreational Trails Schedule

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the following resolution:

Be it resolved that it is in the best interest of the Town of Mansfield to enter into contracts with the Department of Environmental Protection, for the purposes of completing the greenway/blueway project along the Willimantic River at Plains Road (River Park). In furtherance of this resolution alone, Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager is duly authorized to enter into and sign said contracts on behalf of the Town of Mansfield. The Town Manager is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the state or federal government in connection with said contracts and to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto.

Motion passed unanimously

### 7. Child and Adult Care Food Program Application for Mansfield Discovery Depot

Mr. Haddad moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, effective October 22, 2007, to authorize the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, to submit the attached application to the Connecticut Department of Education's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), to help fund the food service operation at the Mansfield Discovery Depot, and to execute any related grant documents.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer requested the Town Manager look into the answer to Question 1 on page 57 of the packet.

## 8. 2008 Social Services Block Grant

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective October 22, 2007, to authorize Town Manager Matthew W. Hart to submit an application to the US Department of Health and Human Services for a Social Services Block Grant in the amount of \$3,657.

Mr. Schaefer asked staff to see if the program could be expanded from the 25 person maximum that currently exist. He suggested the matter be brought to the attention of the State, CCM and our legislators.

Motion passed unanimously.

## 9. Mansfield Housing Code, Expansion of Rental Certification Code

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective October 22, 2007, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed revision to the Mansfield Code to expand the rental certification zone.

Mike Nintean described the proposed expansion of the rental certification zone. In response to questions Mr. Nintean defined a rental property as being a residence in which the owner on the deed is not in residence.

Mayor Paterson requested Council members contact Mr. Nintean if they hear of questionable activity at an address

Motion passed unanimously.

## 10. Grants Accountant Position

Mr. Schaefer, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee will be evaluating the requested position and will forward the matter to the Personnel Committee.

## 11. Mansfield Troops and Volunteers Online

Prior to implementing this new initiative the Town Manager will appoint a committee to develop a draft website policy for Town Council approval. The policy will include input from citizens and address the use and purpose of the site.

## 12. Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Mansfield Board of

Education and the Mansfield Education Association

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to ratify the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the Mansfield Board of Education and the Mansfield Education Association.

Motion passed unanimously.

## VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Clouette, Chair of the Committee on Committees, offered the following recommendations:

Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities – Gloria Bent

Commission on Aging – April Holinko and Carol Phillips

Open Space Preservation Committee – Vicky Wetherell and Ken Feathers

Parks Advisory Committee – Cindy Weiss

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer reported the Finance Committee discussed the request for an additional person in accounting, the report on the Community Center and the selection of an auditing firm. Reports on the first two items will be forwarded to Council members when completed. The Finance Committee decided to recommend using the same auditing company next year but to request a different team of auditors. They will look at other firms in subsequent years.

Mr. Haddad reported the Personnel Committee will meet on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Room B to discuss the Town Manager evaluation and the accounting position.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Paulhus and Mayor Paterson attended the Teacher of the Year Presentation at the Mansfield Middle School.

The Mayor invited all Council members to the November 2, 2007 reception to welcome University of Connecticut President Michael Hogan and his wife Virginia to Mansfield. The reception will be held in the Community Center from 4 to 6.

XII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Attached

Mr. Hart acknowledged the fine work of Comptroller Cherie Trahan and complimented her on being awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded an expression of the Town Council's pride in Cherie Trahan's excellent work.

Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Paulhus requested a clarification from the Town Attorney regarding the placing of political

signs on public property including on Election Day (outside the regulated 75' area).

Mr. Hawkins asked for clarification on what the Town Council can and cannot do to regulate noise in Town. The Town Manager noted that just recently the entire police force has received the necessary training to run the sound level measurement equipment. Mr. Hart will also investigate to see what, if anything, can be done to additionally mitigate motor vehicle noise. Mr. Hultgren will check to see what other communities are doing.

#### XIV. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

13. M. Hart re: Letters Appointing Staff as Part-Time Special Constables

14. Hartford Courant - He Shaped Hartford's Landscapes – 10/16/07

15. Planning and Zoning Commission re: Mansfield's PZC Approved Subdivision Application, PZC File # 1246-4

16. Town of Mansfield Press Release re: Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

#### XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Motion passed by all.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk